

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

SEPTEMBER 1997

**HNC REVISION: 23 JANUARY 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 1998**

1. SITE NAME: Brown Field Bombing Range

SITE NUMBER: J09CA113000

LOCATION:

City: San Diego
County: San Diego
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA113001

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC'S:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Brown Field Bombing Range consists of 46.44 acres of land, located approximately 5 1/2 miles southeast of Chula Vista, San Diego County, California and 3 miles north of the US/Mexican border in range 1 west, township 18 south, section 24 of the Otay Mesa Quadrangle. California highway 905 passes Brown Field Municipal Airport, former NAAS Brown Field, and connects with Otay Mesa Road. This is the only access road to the site which does not require the use of a four wheel drive vehicle.

The two major property owners of the former site are Mr. Gregory T. Smith, who owns 37.01 acres used for livestock grazing, and the State of California, which owns 9.43 acres, part of the Richard J. Donovan State Correctional Facility complex, built since WW II. A barbed wire livestock fence separates Mr. Smith's property and the state's. Entry onto the mesa is controlled and patrolled by prison guards as well as the US Border Patrol.

The additional lands surrounding the site are owned by many different owners. The site will remain as is for the future. No commercial development is planned for the site. The need to have potable water piped in over a considerable distance, and the proximity of the correctional facility have contributed in making this site undesirable for any future commercial development.

The range is in the shape of a quadrilateral and is situated between Johnson and O'Neal Canyons on top of a mesa within the Otay Mesa. The site is flat and resembles a peninsula with steep drop offs on three sides. Elevation in the area ranges from 250 feet above sea level along the Otay River to 500 feet on top of the mesa. Terrain is mostly sandy with low grass and shrub covered mounts rising from the surface. There is no surface water. Runoff goes into O'Neal Canyon and a ravine to the east side to the Otay River. Climate is hot in the summer, with temperatures in the 90's, warm in the winter, and precipitation is sparse with seasonal rainfall of 10 to 12 inches.

4. SITE HISTORY: On 21 April 1944, the United States acquired by condemnation 46.44 acres of land which was used for Navy dive bombing and rocket firing. Known as Brown Field Bombing Range, other names used were Otay Mesa Bombing Range, Otay Bombing Target and Otay Mesa Bombing Target #32. On 21 July 1944, the United States also acquired an easement along the road leading to the site, listed as 2.34 acres on the acquisition document and 4.67 acres on the disposal document. The INPR also states the Navy acquired an unknown quantity of land adjoining the site for rock approach markers by revocable permit in November 1944 and that no copy of this permit could be located.

Records from November 1944 suggest that an observation tower may have been erected at or near the target range property. An aerial photograph, circa 1944, in the ASR, show the concentric circles of the target. Other photographs show a "simulated destroyer deck". The site targets were used for "glide, dive and waterfilled" bombing. Records were found indicating the site was used for bombing practice as late as 1950.

By mid-1961, the bombing range and the easement had been determined to be surplus and assigned to the General Services Administration for disposal. By quitclaim deeds dated 23 June 1961, the 46.44 acres of easement were granted to Kuebler Ranch Inc. The ASR states Mr.

Smith, Rancho Santa Fe, CA purchased 37.01 acres in 1992 and is the current owner with the remainder of the property owned by the prison. The INPR stated that the Baldwin Company is the current owner and is proposing to build a business park complex on the property. Mr. Smith, when interviewed, stated that Baldwin Company never owned the land, but does own land to the west of the site.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	46.44 (Original FDE acreage)
Former Use:	Bomb Target
Present Use:	37.01 acres range land 9.43 acres state correctional facility
Probable End Use:	37.01 acres range land 9.43 acres state correctional facility
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Bomb, Practice, 100 lb., M38A2/Mk15 and 3 lb, Mk 15; Rocket, Practice, Subcaliber, Mk6 (SCAR)

AREA B

Size, Acres:	187.56 (To be added to FUDS acreage)
Former Use:	Buffer Zone 1
Present Use:	Range land and correctional facility
Probable End Use:	Range land and correctional facility
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Bomb, Practice, 100 lb., M38A2/Mk15, 3 lb. Mk 15, and 500 lb.; Rocket, Practice, Subcaliber, Mk6 (SCAR)

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Brown Field Bombing Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1997.

7. STRATEGY:

AREA A: RAC 4;EE/CA

AREA B: RAC 4;EE/CA (Recommend addition of this area to FUDS acreage)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) concurred with EE/CA, RAC 4 for Areas A and B and the recommendation that Area B be added to the FUDS acreage for this project based on SI team findings of scrap from rockets and practice bombs. The ASR includes an additional area of 276 acres, Area C, identified as Buffer Zone 2, which surrounds Area B. The TAG decided that Area C will not be included in this project and NOFA applies since it is not included in FDE acreage and no OE scrap was found.

The only energetic material ever found at Brown Field Bombing Range was found in Area A: a utility company was excavating earth in 1996 and evidently hit a practice bomb, setting off the spotting charge. Since rockets fired at the site were determined to be inert, and the rocket motors would have been expended in flight, no value was assigned in the RAC form. Since the site is not readily accessible, no energetic material is on the surface, and there is no likely change that will occur in the use of the land, concur with ASR author that this is a low priority RAC 4 EE/CA.

Area A, Bomb Target: Inspection of this area, the actual INPR FUDS acreage of 46.44 acres, revealed the presence of scrap from practice bombs and rocket motors. There was one area where some of the scrap was piled. The three concentric circles with radii of 50', 100' and 200' mentioned in historical documents were not visible. Two parallel rows of cement or gypsum blocks 30' apart by 200' in length situated in a northeast to southeast direction were found. This was probable the remains of the destroyer deck shape.

Area B, Buffer Zone I: This area, a band of 187.56 acres surrounding Area A, must be added to FUDS project acreage based on findings of OE scrap outside the boundary of Area A.

Area C, Buffer Zone II: The TAG determined that this band of 276 acres surrounding Area B will not be added to FUDS project acreage since this is a low priority RAC 4, a buffer zone is already recommended, and no evidence of OE was found in this area. Evidence does not warrant an additional buffer zone to surround a buffer zone (Area B). Any further action in Area C would be based on the results of further findings in Areas A and B as the project develops.

Right of Entry: Right of Entry coordination is necessary to gain access to the site. A state correctional facility is adjacent to the former site and the area is patrolled by law enforcement agencies to include the US Border Patrol.

Natural Resources: Federally- and State-threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, page 8, paragraph 3f and Table 3-2. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: There are no known historical or cultural resources on the former target site. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:

	Original	Schedule	Actual	Original	Schedule	Actual
Phase	<u>Start</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Complete</u>
EE/CA						

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only